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Chaplin. Mr. William B. Owen, who won the \$75.00 prize awarded at Woodstock at the close of the season, displayed a number of canvases that showed a big conception of nature and much ability in handling.

A PENNY  
MUSEUM  
GUIDE

In order to prevent "aimless wandering," and to induce instead, intelligent observation, the Boston

Museum of Fine Arts has recently issued a little vest-pocket guide to the Museum and its collections. This guide is distributed to ticket holders and is sold to others for one cent. The sign which calls attention to it at the entrance and in the corridors reads:

"Do you know your way through the Museum?

"The Leaflet Guide for sale at the entrance, price one cent, tells what there is to see and how to see it."

The *Bulletin* of the Museum has this to say of it:

"For purposes of ready reference the Leaflet is reduced to little more than the bare function of guidance fulfilled in the fewest words. Nevertheless it names, describes, and directs the visitor to every public room in the Museum. The first page gives a minute sketch-plan showing the arrangement of the departments in the building. This gives the visitor his bearings at a glance. One of the following pages is devoted to each department of the Museum. Each page contains a descriptive list of the galleries with directions how to reach them from one or other entrance.

"The great majority of museum visitors are aimless wanderers, enjoying what they find to enjoy, but seeking nothing in particular. To loaf and invite the soul is indeed a precious privilege of leisure; yet it also invites boredom. Against this a recourse should be open to visitors in the form of a bill of fare of the artistic banquet offered by the Museum. Moreover, in wandering through a large building one easily loses one's way. Against this also a recourse should be open to visitors in the form of directions so condensed that he who runs—or saunters—may read them.

"The Leaflet Guide aims to meet both these needs of the great majority, and with

them the need of guidance felt by the small minority who visit the Museum with a plan—the plan to see it either as a whole or in one or other detail. The demand from either of these three sources for even the smallest and easiest read of Leaflets may prove to be inconsiderable; but whatever it is, it calls for recognition and may grow by what it feeds on. It is seldom if ever met in any museum in a way to appeal to the visitor who is limited in time, as nearly all visitors are. The new vest-pocket Guide aims in its modest way to help divest a Museum visit of the *ennui* and bewilderment which have come to be thought inseparable from it, and thus to help transform an occupation which to the seriously inclined is generally an onerous duty, and to those who take it lightly an insipid diversion, into the memorable pleasure it may easily and to every one become."

G.

NOTES FROM  
CHICAGO

One of the latest gifts to the Art Institute from the Friends of American Art is a portrait of Mrs. Dyer by John Singer Sargent. This is essentially a painter's painting and is particularly admired by the artists. Its date is 1880. The picture represents a slender woman in black seated against a rich brown background. The figure is in profile, the head is turned looking out of the canvas and the hands are folded loosely in the lap.

A small but rare collection of eleven pastels and prints by James McNeill Whistler has been lent to the Institute by Mr. Marshall Field.

Mr. Martin A. Ryerson has lent a collection of twenty water colors by Winslow Homer, which present the rude coast and fishing themes that are characteristic of Homer's brush.

Six exhibitions are in progress during March. These are works by the Guild of Boston Artists including fifty-five paintings and fifteen miniatures; Alson Skinner Clark's Panama canvases, shown at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition; a collection of thirty landscapes by Ben Foster, of New York; thirty pieces of sculpture by Anna V. Hyatt, and the Chicago Society of Etchers sixth international exhibition of etchings.